

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Case No. 08-13555(JMP)

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In the Matter of:

LEHMAN BROTHERS HOLDINGS, INC., et al.

Debtors.

- - - - -x

United States Bankruptcy Court

One Bowling Green

New York, New York

October 23, 2009

10:07 AM

B E F O R E:

HON. JAMES M. PECK

U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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HEARING re Metavante Corporation's Motion to Alter or Amend the
Court's Order Granting Lehman Brothers Special Financing Inc.
and Its Affiliated Debtors' Motion to Compel Performance and
Enforce the Automatic Stay
FSB

HEARING re Metavante Corporation's Motion for an Order Staying
the Effect of the Court's Order Granting Lehman Brothers
Special Financing Inc. and Its Affiliated Debtors' Motion to
Compel and Enforce the Automatic Stay

Transcribed by: Lisa Bar-Leib

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 THE COURT: Be seated, please. Good morning. Mr.
3 Slack?

4 MR. SLACK: Good morning, Your Honor. Richard Slack
5 from Weil Gotshal. We are here this morning on two matters
6 both relating to Metavante. The first one on the calendar is
7 Metavante's motion to alter or amend the Court's order granting
8 Lehman Brothers' motion to compel performance and enforce the
9 automatic stay. And before I turn the floor over to
10 Metavante's counsel, Your Honor, I did want to inform the Court
11 that the parties this past week -- the principals have spoken
12 or communicated. They've exchanged proposals. But my
13 understanding is the proposals, at least last I heard, are far
14 apart. But the parties at least did exchange proposals, Your
15 Honor.

16 THE COURT: Well, that's positive. Mr. Arnold, do
17 you want to start?

18 MR. ARNOLD: Good morning, Your Honor. May it please
19 the Court, Bruce Arnold at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek SC on behalf
20 of Metavante. I'm joined by my co-counsel this morning, Rich
21 Bernard, from the firm of Baker Hostetler.

22 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Bernard.

23 MR. BERNARD: Good morning.

24 MR. ARNOLD: Begging the Court's indulgence, I'd like
25 to start with the same comment and echo the sentiments

1 expressed by Mr. Slack. Mssrs. Slack, Lemons and Arnold spoke
2 last Monday following the chambers conference which occurred a
3 week ago today. And I'm grateful to Mr. Lemons, in particular,
4 for providing some contact information for folks at the highest
5 levels of Lehman.

6 On Tuesday, the businesspeople at FIS and the
7 business folks at Lehman did have such a conversation. And on
8 Wednesday, a formal settlement proposal, in a letter that I
9 sent to Rich and Rob, was sent to them. Rule 408 precludes us
10 from having a discussion in your presence, Your Honor, about
11 the substance of those discussions, but I wanted the Court to
12 know that the message you sent last Friday in the chambers
13 conference was received loud and clear.

14 There is a disparity between the two parties'
15 positions but I'm encouraged because of the construct that
16 folks are looking at which is around the concept of an early
17 termination and discussions about the mark to market and
18 interest rates and so forth. It does give me some
19 encouragement that there's a way to resolve this case. And I'm
20 not going to say anymore than that except to say that quite
21 high level discussions have gone on this week and I wanted to
22 Court to be aware of that.

23 THE COURT: Good. I appreciate the update and I
24 don't want to know any of the details. Let's deal with what's
25 in front of me today, however. You have two motions pending.

1 MR. ARNOLD: With respect to the new motions that are
2 pending, I'll start, of course, Your Honor, by saying thank you
3 for accepting the letter briefs which were filed on October
4 13th and 16th, respectively, as the parties' final pleadings on
5 this matter. And in the spirit of our dialogue in the chambers
6 conference, certainly would be willing to say, Your Honor, that
7 Metavante, and perhaps the debtors as well, stand on their
8 pleadings. And if it's this Court's pleasure simply to rule on
9 the motions that are before the Court, I'm happy to stand down
10 and accept that as the Court's direction for how to conduct
11 this hearing. If it is your pleasure to entertain some oral
12 argument, I have relatively few comments to add to the points
13 that are already in the letter briefs and in the pleadings and
14 we'll take our lead from how the Court wants to conduct the
15 hearing today.

16 THE COURT: Well, we're all here and we have, I
17 think, public interest in the issues that are presented. I
18 would certainly welcome any comments that you or Mr. Slack or
19 the creditors' committee, for that matter, may have before
20 making any rulings.

21 And I think that it makes sense to approach this
22 first with comments on the motion to alter or amend and then
23 comments in connection with the motion for a stay. So --

24 MR. ARNOLD: Very well, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: -- I think we can hear them both at the

1 same time. I'm just suggesting that order.

2 MR. ARNOLD: I'll be brief because I want to be
3 mindful of the length of our reply letter and the amount of
4 pleadings the Court has already had to look at.

5 Since we're here today and have the opportunity to
6 talk about the unique nature of an interest rate swap agreement
7 and in the context of an order that you've already entered that
8 compels Metavante to perform according to the terms of the
9 interest rate swap agreement, here's how Metavante tried to
10 marry together the dictates of the Supreme Court decision in
11 NLRB v. Bildisco and a series of cases like Chateaugay and
12 Faline (ph.) and McLean Industries and so forth that were cited
13 by Lehman and relied upon by the Court, especially the McLean
14 decision and NLRB v. Bildisco.

15 In contrast, the cases involving the sale of gasoline
16 or other essential goods and services that the courts were
17 loathe to allow the nondebtor counterparty to continue
18 providing pending the outcome of the decision by the debtor to
19 assume or reject the executory contract, the nature of an
20 interest rate swap agreement is a somewhat different animal
21 than a typical executory contract. I acknowledge that using
22 phrases like it's a garden variety contract or not doesn't
23 advance the discussion. But at its essence, an interest rate
24 swap agreement is an exchange of cash flows. And from
25 Metavante's perspective, Your Honor, the economic glue that

1 holds an interest rate swap agreement together, the essence of
2 the consideration is the ability to net setoff and, depending
3 upon the circumstances, terminate the interest rate swap
4 agreement.

5 So we sought -- in begging your indulgence, of
6 course, we sought the opportunity to reconsider or to alter or
7 amend in some respect your decision, Your Honor, to see whether
8 the Court would be willing to give voice to some way of
9 protecting Metavante's interest in connection with a contract
10 that it has been ordered to perform. And in that vein, the
11 concept of Metavante articulated is if we don't have the
12 ability to withhold payments and the market turns and Metavante
13 is then in the money, what happens with respect to the payments
14 that Metavante has already paid? Then the market turns and if
15 the debtor has not yet rejected the contract then the debtor
16 would be in a position of having to make a reset payment. Say,
17 on February 1st. There's a reset payment due on November 1st.
18 I think we can all state for the record that with a ninety day
19 LIBOR at .23 or so that Metavante is not in the money with
20 respect to the upcoming payment due on November 1st.

21 But if the market changes and on February 1st, 2010,
22 Lehman now owes a payment to Metavante, the thought occurred to
23 us, and hence the motion to alter or amend, whether the Court
24 would want to protect or at least address the rights of the
25 nondebtor counterparty during the pendency of the time that the

1 debtor decides to assume or reject. We are firmly in that gray
2 area pre-assumption or rejection.

3 So the essence of the motion to alter or amend goes
4 off of this concept of how does the Court respect the interest
5 of the nondebtor counterparty in the circumstances here. We've
6 seen in the cases collected and before this Court that Courts
7 have taken a number of creative approaches. Causically, in
8 both the McLean case and some of the other cases involving
9 natural gas, interestingly enough, Courts set a fairly early
10 date to assume or reject so that the nondebtor counterparty,
11 while it was ordered to continue to perform, had sort of a date
12 certain by which it -- when it would know whether it would
13 continue to have to perform or not. Courts have said, of
14 course, that while you continue to perform, nondebtor party,
15 you're entitled to be paid for the goods or services that you
16 receive (sic).

17 In the context of an interest rate swap agreement
18 where the currency, the economic glue of the transaction, is a
19 swap of cash flows and certain contractual rights, including
20 the rights to net, setoff or terminate, Metavante thought that
21 the idea of creating an escrow might be a suitable way to
22 protect both the rights in the future and the debtors' rights
23 now. Hence our motion to alter or amend, to ask the Court to
24 at least consider the "what if" when or if the market turns.

25 So that's all I want to add on the motion for

1 adequate protection, Your Honor. That's how Metavante sort of
2 agrees this interesting line of cases starting with NLRB v.
3 Bildisco and, of course, going through the McLean decision,
4 Judge Buschmann's famous decision on this topic. You know how
5 we think that McLean is distinguished because of the existence
6 of a pre-petition default. But we're not here to have a --
7 what is the phraseology -- a second bite at the apple in terms
8 of rearguing the merits. We appreciate, Your Honor, the narrow
9 purview of a motion to alter or amend.

10 THE COURT: You haven't commented on default
11 interest.

12 MR. ARNOLD: On default interest, the issue is
13 intriguing at three different levels. And again, I'll be
14 brief. Going back to the pleadings originally filed in this
15 Court on May 29th, this Court is aware that the motion contains
16 the unsupported allegation that, at least as of May 29th, 2009,
17 Metavante owed default interest of "approximately \$359,215.37".
18 I can tell you, Your Honor, that in the context of these
19 settlement discussions, Metavante asked and received a
20 calculation from Lehman that shows what the current default
21 interest rate is and so forth and how it was calculated.

22 The essence of the default interest argument doesn't
23 necessarily turn on a calculation. Even I can perform a
24 calculation that takes the ninety day LIBOR rate and somebody's
25 state cost of funds and then adds the one percent delay rate

1 that is embedded in the standard 1992 ISDA master agreement.
2 The default interest rate for us is interesting in a quite
3 different way. Number one, the concept of default interest
4 flows from what? A default. Here, you have the interesting
5 scenario where it is alleged that both Metavante and Lehman are
6 in default. Metavante has staked out the position that as to
7 its interest rate swap agreement, LBHI's pre-petition, at least
8 as to LBSF, Chapter 11 filing and its flunking of the so-called
9 specified indebtedness requirements constituted a pre-petition
10 default excusing Metavante's performance. And not getting into
11 New York law and the Section 2(a)(iii) arguments and so forth.
12 Only asking the Court to appreciate that Metavante raised the
13 default interest issue from the perspective of saying what
14 happens when both parties putatively claim that the other is in
15 default. Is there, in fact, an entitlement to default
16 interest?

17 The second question, and putting aside whether the
18 Court feels that it was necessary to entertain evidence or
19 testimony or some kind of record to support the calculation,
20 like one of the cases cited by Lehman, the Finance One Public
21 Company decision, was intriguing in the sense that there, the
22 special manager of that company certified the cost of funds and
23 then provided examples of what that entity's cost of money is
24 by giving the other party, ironically LBSF, ten promissory
25 notes demonstrating the interest rates at which that entity was

1 borrowing money.

2 Here, while acknowledging that the bar is set fairly
3 low in terms of how the default rate is proven or established
4 and so forth, what intrigued Metavante and hence the footnote
5 in our letter to Your Honor, is that Lehman stakes out the
6 position that it currently has, specifically LBHI -- has a cost
7 of funds of about 12.5 percent. We're not aware, Your Honor,
8 that LBHI is, in fact, still in the business of either lending
9 or borrowing money. And with 15.7 billion dollars in its
10 accounts right now, and acknowledging the good work of Bryan
11 Marsal and the folks who are working on this Chapter 11
12 bankruptcy proceeding, it struck us as at least ironic and
13 potentially discordant that Metavante has been asked to pay
14 about 13.5 percent default interest all in. So, ninety day
15 LIBOR plus LBHI's stated cost of borrowing plus one percent
16 which is a very healthy amount of interest in the circumstances
17 where there isn't a record that LBHI does, in fact, continue to
18 borrow and at that rate.

19 So those are the only two comments that I'll add on
20 the default interest issue, Your Honor. I think the rest of
21 the pleadings and, again, begging your indulgence for the nine
22 pages that we sent to you last Friday, I think the rest of the
23 pleadings were well done on both side and you have a complete
24 record before you.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 MR. ARNOLD: Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Arnold. I thought we were
3 going to handle both the motion to alter or amend and the stay
4 at the same time. But since it's been broken into parts, why
5 don't we talk about the motion to alter or amend and then we'll
6 talk about the stay?

7 MR. SLACK: Your Honor, Rich Slack again from Weil
8 Gotshal for LBSF. Your Honor, I'll also try to be brief but I
9 think the key issue or at least one of the key issues which is
10 a gatekeeper issue on the Rule 59(e) motion is whether that
11 procedure is appropriate in this circumstance. Essentially,
12 Metavante requests that Your Honor consider new arguments that
13 could have been made but for whatever reason were not made
14 during the extensive briefing of the motions. And as Your
15 Honor is probably well aware, recent decisions have held that a
16 motion to alter and amend is "an extraordinary remedy to be
17 employed sparingly in the interest of finality and is
18 appropriate only when a Court overlooks controlling decisions
19 or factual matters that were put before it on the underlying
20 motion and which, if examined, might reasonably have led to a
21 different result." That's the recent decision by Judge
22 Buchwald from June of earlier this year in Johnson v. Killian
23 (ph.). That Court also stated that "it is not appropriate to
24 use a motion for reconsideration", again speaking about 59(e),
25 "as a vehicle to advance new theories a party failed to

1 articulate in arguing the underlying motion".

2 The two issues that Metavante raises here on the
3 59(e) motion, both could have been raised below. Neither was
4 raised in either of the briefings. And moreover, Your Honor, I
5 think it's pretty clear from the briefs that came in that
6 Metavante can point to no authority whatsoever and certainly
7 not any controlling authority that requires that a debtor
8 provide adequate assurance of future performance as a condition
9 for performance by a counterparty to an executory contract.

10 With respect to the default rate, Your Honor, much
11 the same way as the adequate assurance argument, as Mr. Arnold
12 recognized, they had a calculation of default interest. And in
13 the ISDA master, which is Exhibit 1 to the motion that we made,
14 there's a definition of default interest. And it's important
15 because it says the default interest rate is "a rate per annum
16 equal to the cost" -- and this is the important part --
17 "without proof or evidence of any actual cost to the relevant
18 payee as certified by it if it were to fund or funding the
19 relevant amount plus one percent annum".

20 The way the ISDA document works is that there is no
21 requirement that you have an evidentiary hearing. There's
22 nothing that requires the Court set that. Now we've said in
23 our papers, Your Honor, that it -- we're happy to have Mr.
24 Arnold talk to us about it or raise a different motion. We're
25 not sure that that would be appropriate. But the important

1 part about the two issues that Mr. Arnold raises in his motion
2 for reconsideration are that they really have nothing to do
3 with whether Metavante performs under the contract. In other
4 words, Metavante could perform and have raised these issues
5 after performing whether or not in the future interest rates
6 turn. That hasn't happened yet. There's no reason that
7 Metavante can't perform on their contract as Your Honor has
8 ordered. And similarly, with respect to the default interest,
9 there's no reason if there is an attack that they wish to make
10 that they couldn't do that afterwards after they perform. So
11 neither of these arguments should prevent Metavante from
12 performing under the terms that Your Honor set forth.

13 With respect to the merits, Your Honor, I think Your
14 Honor is well aware of the various arguments on the adequate
15 assurance points that were made in the letters. The only thing
16 I would add is that there is not a single case cited by
17 Metavante where the Courts provided some kind of adequate
18 assurance for future performance. Every one of those Courts
19 discussed saying that for providing a good or service, you're
20 entitled to get paid for that service. But none of them say
21 that you're entitled to some kind of adequate assurance for
22 future performance. And that, I think, is the real hole. In
23 particular, Your Honor, I think Metavante relies on a number of
24 cases that are completely in opposite, that don't stand for the
25 propositions that they state. And I expect Your Honor has

1 already read those.

2 With respect to the interest point, Your Honor,
3 again, I think it's the point I raised before that there is a
4 contractual provision and that contractual provision was
5 followed by Lehman. And it does not prevent Metavante from
6 performing. And, in fact, there is no provision within that
7 contract if they were just performing under the contract for
8 having an evidentiary hearing on the default interest rate. We
9 cite a case, the Finance One case v. LBSF where LBSF was on the
10 other side of this issue. That was from July of 2003. And we
11 believe that that stands for the proposition we set forth.

12 So with respect to the actual calculation, Your
13 Honor, of the interest rate, I would just like to touch upon
14 that. And that is that while there isn't -- this is not the
15 appropriate time or the appropriate forum and nor do we think
16 there is an appropriate challenge to it. The fact is that it's
17 derived essentially from looking at the DIP loan rate,
18 realizing that that was secured, having a factor for the sense
19 that this kind of cost of funds is unsecured and then adding
20 the one percent. So we think there's a -- not only a
21 justifiable way of looking at that interest but, frankly, it is
22 an appropriate one for this contract, and low, if you actually
23 looked at the actual cost of funds that Lehman would have to
24 undertake in order to borrow.

25 With that, Your Honor, I'm through unless you have

1 any comments on the first motion that you'd like to ask.

2 THE COURT: No. Thank you.

3 MR. SLACK: Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Why don't we move on to the stay?

5 MR. ARNOLD: Your Honor, guided by the same
6 admonition to keep our comments brief, ultimately what we
7 seeking in connection with the motion to stay is your potential
8 blessing of the use of an escrow arrangement in lieu of a
9 supersedeas bond. Under Local Rule 8005-1 of the Local Rules
10 of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District
11 of New York, Metavante would be obliged to, upon filing its
12 notice of appeal, to file a supersedeas bond equal to the sum
13 of the amount the Court ordered to be paid plus eleven percent
14 plus 250 dollars to cover costs. In addition to that,
15 Metavante would be obliged to pay the premium that the surety
16 charges for a bond of that size which might be in the range of,
17 say, twelve million dollars or so.

18 Plainly and simply, Your Honor, and using the
19 creative language from Judge Posner's decision, we were hoping
20 that the Court would entertain the concept of using an escrow
21 agreement basically to save the 120 or 130,000 dollars in
22 premiums that would otherwise be paid to the surety, money that
23 could easily be applied towards a consensual settlement of this
24 case.

25 But in any event, it's not a question of whether

1 Metavante is bondable or not. That's not the point at all. We
2 were looking for the Court's input in simply trying to save
3 some cost on the appeal. That's the essence of the motion to
4 stay. It's not your typical motion to stay where you've got
5 somebody worried that the judgment creditor is going to garnish
6 accounts or it might put the company out of business which
7 actually was the underlying in the Western Union case where
8 Western Union was on the wrong side of a treble damage
9 antitrust award for some thirty-six million dollars. No.
10 Purely and simply, Your Honor, we're looking for your
11 creativity and everybody's creativity to look at an alternative
12 way of preserving and protecting Lehman during the pendency of
13 the appeal through the use of an escrow arrangement the terms
14 of which, I think, would be fairly easy to get to.

15 So that's --

16 THE COURT: Are you planning to comment at all on
17 your entitlement to stay or are you relying on your papers?

18 MR. ARNOLD: I'm sorry, Your Honor?

19 THE COURT: Are you planning to comment at all with
20 respect to your entitlement to a stay, in the first instance,
21 or are you relying on your papers?

22 MR. ARNOLD: We're relying on our papers, Your Honor.
23 You'll appreciate that it's somewhat awkward to talk about the
24 likelihood of success on the merits in front of the very
25 individual who issued a thoughtful decision.

1 THE COURT: It happens all the time. It's not a
2 problem.

3 MR. ARNOLD: This is a case of first impression.
4 There are important issues about the interplay between New York
5 law and the Bankruptcy Code. The reason we think that we will
6 prevail on appeal, Your Honor, is because we think that the
7 district court will uphold the vitality of Section 2(a)(iii) on
8 account of the pre-petition, at least as to LBSF, default
9 occasioned by LBHI's filing. And we think that Lehman is wrong
10 to conjoin LBSF and LBHI in a single sentence. Based upon the
11 research that we did in that area, and a particular Professor
12 Whyte's treatise on the topic, what we saw is that the National
13 Commission for the Reform of the Bankruptcy Laws in its report
14 issued in 1977 initially recommended that Congress continue a
15 distinction between the applicability of ipso facto clauses in
16 so-called reorganization cases, then Chapter XI now Chapter 11,
17 and liquidation cases, now Chapter 7.

18 So when Congress ultimately did enact Section 365,
19 Professor Whyte said that Congress gave voice to the so-called
20 Queensland decision and made the decision to make Section 365
21 and the so-called ipso facto clause equally applicable to all
22 chapters. So a Chapter 7 trustee, under the Bankruptcy Code,
23 has substantially more powers than his counterpart did under
24 the Act such that the use of the word "the case" and "a case"
25 gives voice to Congress' desire to make it clear that Section

1 365, housed as it is in the Chapter 3 section of the Bankruptcy
2 Code, is equally applicable to both Chapter 7 and Chapter 11.

3 I think that's -- I mean, there are other issues on
4 appeal, Your Honor. But I think that's the one that's really,
5 from an electoral standpoint, one of the more interesting and
6 why, respectfully, of course, we think, Your Honor, that
7 Metavante will prevail on appeal. But as to the balance of our
8 arguments on the motion for stay, I'm certainly happy to stand
9 on our written submission.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Slack?

11 (Pause)

12 MR. SLACK: Your Honor, in its motion to stay,
13 Metavante, I think, correctly cites to Rule 8005 as the
14 appropriate standard and that further granting a stay is in the
15 sound discretion of the bankruptcy court. And while Mr. Arnold
16 talked about the first prong of that, the likelihood of success
17 on the merits, there's other prongs that we think are equally
18 not met here such as whether Metavante will be injured absent
19 the stay, whether the stay will have an effect on Lehman and
20 whether and where the public interest lies.

21 Your Honor, with respect to the merits, I'm not going
22 to belabor the merits. I think Your Honor is well aware of the
23 underpinnings of your own ruling. But I would like to raise
24 one point, Your Honor. Yesterday, Metavante filed a supplement
25 attaching three, for lack of a better description, articles

1 that discuss Your Honor's decision in Metavante. And while
2 there are many more than three, if you go on the internet, they
3 chose those three and filed them in a supplement.

4 One of those, the last one, was put out by the ISDA
5 legal department itself. And that was on September 30th. And
6 it sets forth questions and answers about the Metavante
7 decision that Your Honor rendered. And while I think it's
8 interesting reading, one of the questions is as follows: is
9 the decision consistent with the overall structure of the ISDA
10 master agreement and the safe harbors? And the answer by ISDA
11 was yes. The ISDA master agreement evolved into a two-way
12 payments document under which and in the money defaulting party
13 is to be paid upon termination years ago in part in response to
14 bankruptcy law concerns in a variety of countries. Certainly,
15 the ISDA master agreement typically does not require
16 termination of a defaulting party. And it does allow a non-
17 defaulting party to spend performance to a defaulting party.
18 The ISDA master agreement, however, leaves the use of these
19 mechanisms to the discretion of the non-faulting party and,
20 implicitly, applicable law. Nowhere does the ISDA master
21 agreement declare a non-defaulting party able to stand still
22 forever on these mechanisms. As for the U.S. Bankruptcy Code
23 safe harbors, they speak only in terms of rights to terminate,
24 net and access collateral. The careful exercise of Section
25 2(a)(3) rights may well be viewed as part and parcel of these

1 rights but it is harder to argue that the safe harbors protect
2 rights not to terminate and not to pay.

3 The ISDA document later goes on and asks the
4 question, is the Metavante decision a surprise and answers that
5 with a resounding no. Thus, the basic tenets of Your Honor's
6 decision have been supported by ISDA consistent with the
7 governing master and we think that adds to what we believe is
8 the strong likelihood that the appeal will not succeed, Your
9 Honor.

10 With respect to irreparable injury, while no party
11 wants to be ordered to perform a contract, especially one that
12 requires payment, Metavante has not shown that it will suffer
13 any harm by paying the money that it owes. Metavante has
14 recently engaged in a transaction that's been the discussion in
15 a number of hearings and conferences. And Metavante informed
16 the Court that the combined company has revenues, I believe --
17 this is by memory but I believe it was somewhere in the five
18 billion dollar range.

19 So there's no evidence in the record or showing that
20 if the appeal is granted that -- or there's -- and there's a
21 final order reversing Your Honor that LBSF will not be able to
22 pay the money and there's no harm to Metavante in paying it.

23 With respect to the debtors and the harm on the
24 debtors, Your Honor, the point that's not lost on any of the
25 counterparties that are listening and watching what the Court

1 does in Metavante is that if the Court were to allow Metavante
2 to avoid its performance despite a court order, it would have a
3 detrimental impact on the debtors in their efforts to continue
4 to recover money because nobody's going to pay if Metavante
5 doesn't have to pay.

6 Finally, Your Honor, with respect to the undercurrent
7 of Mr. Arnold's argument -- seems to be saying that he can go
8 in and get a stay by virtue of a bond. And, Your Honor, that's
9 not the case under 8005, Your Honor. Your Honor first has to
10 decide that a stay is appropriate. And then if a stay is
11 appropriate then the question is what is the appropriate bond
12 that Metavante should post in order to get that stay. And
13 while I don't know what Your Honor is considering today, I
14 would like to take a moment and talk about the bond because I
15 think there is a misconception on Metavante's part as to what a
16 bond would entail here.

17 Metavante treats this order as if it is an order to
18 pay past amounts due. Now when Your Honor first issued the
19 order for Metavante to perform, the amounts that were due at
20 that time by Metavante to perform were approximately 6.6.
21 million. After that, Your Honor, there was one more payment
22 date that's come and gone and so that amount is now eleven
23 million. And this contract goes through 2010. So the amounts
24 that would be due over the course of this appeal assuming, for
25 example, that the interest rate stayed the same would not be an

1 eleven million dollar bond. The amount of the bond that would
2 have to be put up here -- and I'd like to talk about two
3 different concepts. If you assume that interest rates stay the
4 same and don't change then in addition to the eleven million,
5 Metavante would owe approximately twenty-five million on each
6 of these -- not on each of the payment dates but a total over
7 the time. I would add, though, Your Honor, that if you look at
8 interest rate curves, which is how the people who really
9 understand these swaps look at it, and you look at the interest
10 rate curves as to what people based on the forward markets
11 think interest rates are going to do, the amount that Metavante
12 would owe in addition to the eleven million is more like
13 thirty-three million when you include the default interest.

14 So it's our position, Your Honor, and I think it's
15 clear under the case law, that if Metavante were to post a
16 bond, that bond would have to protect LBSF during the course of
17 the pendency of the appeal. And the amount of that bond would
18 be not the amount that they owe now. The amount of the bond
19 has to be what would protect the estate during the course of
20 the appeal. And that amount, Your Honor, we contend is, using
21 the forward looking curves, which again is about thirty-three
22 million, plus the eleven million plus -- that they owe now for
23 about a forty-four million dollar bond. And at the very least,
24 if you look at interest rates where they are right now, that
25 bond would have to be closer to thirty-seven million.

1 Your Honor, the last point I guess I want to make
2 just so it's clear is that there are provisions in both the
3 Bankruptcy Code and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that
4 allow for automatic stays upon the posting of a bond in certain
5 cases. And those cases are where you have a money judgment for
6 a sum certain. And that's 62(d). 62(d), however, is not
7 applicable here for a couple of reasons. First, 7062, which
8 incorporates Rule 62, very clearly states that it's applicable
9 only in adversary proceedings. And Bankruptcy Rule 9014 does
10 not incorporate Rule 7062 for contested matters. In situations
11 outside of adversary proceedings, Rule 8005 applies which is
12 exactly what Metavante, in their papers, suggest applies and we
13 agree.

14 Second, and maybe just as important, is that Rule
15 62(d) is not applicable here where the order that Your Honor
16 issued is one for performance under a contract and not a sum
17 certain. And in particular, Your Honor, I would like to cite
18 one or two cases that make this point. For example, Your
19 Honor, the Tower Automotive at 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 49282,
20 which is Southern District, July 2nd, 2007, is a case that's
21 very closely to the point. There, you had a defendant which
22 was an insurance company that moved for a stay of the Court's
23 order holding it was obligated to pay certain defense costs in
24 connection with a lawsuit brought. The Court held that the
25 insurance company had to continue to perform under that

1 contract. And the Court held that because its ruling was not a
2 monetary judgment but rather for the insurance company to
3 perform that, as it said, "The decision awarded no fixed sum of
4 money. Indeed, the parties agreed that the amount due under
5 the insurance policy is currently unknown. As such, Rule 62(d)
6 is inapplicable."

7 In both this case and that case, very similarly, this
8 Court's decision that Metavante has to perform will undoubtedly
9 require that it pay money. But performance under a contract is
10 very different. There is no sum certain. And as we've seen
11 since Your Honor's last ruling, the 6.8 million that was due at
12 that time is now eleven million. And I think Mr. Arnold
13 suggested that in November, almost certainly, his client's
14 going to have to pay more money. And so consequently, Your
15 Honor, we don't believe that there's any -- we don't believe
16 that there's any justification for a stay either under Rule
17 8005 under the factors -- and I have to correct something I
18 said before. I think I had it backwards when I said that if
19 the rates stay the same, it's a thirty-three million dollar --
20 I just want to clear -- I had it backwards. If the rates stay
21 the same, it's thirty-three million dollars. If you use
22 forward curves, it's twenty-five million dollars, Your Honor.
23 So I had that backwards but now it's correct.

24 So that's what I have to say unless you have any
25 questions, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: No, thank you. Anything more? Oh, the
2 committee would like to speak, Mr. Arnold.

3 MR. FLECK: Good morning, Your Honor. Evan Fleck of
4 Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy on behalf of the official
5 committee of unsecured creditors. Very briefly, Your Honor,
6 and it probably comes as no surprise to the Court that the
7 committee rises in support of the debtors' position with
8 respect to both of these motions just as the committee actively
9 participated in the original motion to compel performance. And
10 it's for the same reasons. And we worked closely with the
11 debtors in connection with the pleading although we didn't file
12 a letter brief in connection with this morning's hearing.

13 Your Honor, the committee's position is that there
14 is, as the debtors stated, there is no basis to alter or amend
15 the decision. I'm going to speak, with the Court's permission,
16 with respect to both the motions --

17 THE COURT: That's fine.

18 MR. FLECK: -- that are before the Court. Metavante
19 has not met the legal standard to alter or amend this Court's
20 decision. And it appears from the committee's perspective that
21 while Metavante may have other relief that it's seeking from
22 this Court, adequate assurance or otherwise, that now is not
23 the time to seek that relief; it's procedurally improper. And
24 that's particularly important from our perspective, Your Honor,
25 because of the effect that Metavante's action now, after a

1 decision of this Court has been rendered, has on the efficient
2 and effective administration of these estates and particularly
3 with respect to the derivatives book.

4 The committee is particularly focused on the
5 derivatives book as an asset that requires significant
6 attention to maximize the return to the unsecured creditors of
7 these estates in a timely and an appropriate manner. And the
8 conduct of one counterparty with respect to one contract that
9 is representative of a tremendous book of contracts, of which
10 the Court is well aware, very well may, if it has not already,
11 have a serious and detrimental effect on the administration of
12 these estates. And while -- if the motion had been
13 procedurally proper or based properly in law, the committee has
14 no issue with obviously a party coming for relief before this
15 Court. But after a decision has been rendered and a
16 counterparty elects not to perform and instead asks this Court
17 for a different form of relief, the committee finds that to be
18 particularly improper and requests that the Court deny that
19 relief.

20 The committee is also mindful of the significant
21 costs that have gone in on the side of the estate in order to
22 do what it believes it should not be required to do which is to
23 ask a party to adhere to this Court's decision. And unless
24 there's any questions, thank you, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: I don't have any questions. Thank you.

1 Mr. Arnold, do you want to --

2 MR. ARNOLD: Very briefly, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: -- speak some more?

4 MR. ARNOLD: I actually am delighted that my esteemed
5 colleague, Mr. Slack, raised the question of how a supersedeas
6 bond might be crafted in this instance. Although Metavante's
7 motion to approve a supersedeas bond is not before the Court
8 because we are hopeful, frankly, that Your Honor will entertain
9 the concept of an escrow arrangement, if it comes to the point
10 of seeking such relief, just to give you a sense of what
11 Metavante's reading of Rule 8005 is, we believe that the
12 advisory committee was careful in its use of three subordinate
13 clauses in the precatory language of 8005: that a party may
14 move for a stay, they may move for approval of a supersedeas
15 bond or for such other relief. It is certainly not our hope
16 that this matter, while it goes up on appeal, does so in the
17 context of a supersedeas bond. It is our hope, Your Honor,
18 that you will indulge our request to permit the establishment
19 of an escrow arrangement. But if it does, let me tell you what
20 the sureties and bonding companies have to say about the point
21 raised by Mr. Slack.

22 The relief sought on May 29th, 2009 in the underlying
23 motion was for the payment of the amount then due and owing.
24 The pleading, if you want to view the motion as a complaint,
25 asks that Metavante pay \$6,640,138.01 in reset payments and

1 \$359,215.37 in interest payments. This Court granted the
2 motion. And, utilizing the form of order that had been
3 submitted with the motion, directed Metavante to pay the reset
4 amounts from the three dates that were referenced in the order
5 as well as default interest. And then there's this additional
6 sentence "and to continue to perform the obligations under the
7 interest rate swap agreement". What the bonding companies tell
8 us, just so the Court knows that we've thought about this, is
9 that in this circumstance, the way a supersedeas bond is
10 presented is the surety bonds the appellant with respect to the
11 amounts that are currently due and owing and then submits
12 riders when and if additional amounts become due and owing. So
13 that's the protocol, the mechanism, that sureties -- and has
14 come up in the law of suretyship and how they deal with the
15 unique circumstances between an order to perform and the fact
16 that some of the amounts are not currently due and owing.
17 Reasonable people can differ about what's happening to the
18 involuted yield curve and what will happen, predictably or not,
19 with respect to the U.S. or world economy and its impact on the
20 ninety day LIBOR rate. We're able, I think, to come to an
21 agreement right now on what the resets are and do that
22 calculation and pending your input on default interest, perhaps
23 on that issue as well.

24 I also want to respond, Your Honor, to the commentary
25 raised now by the committee. Metavante acknowledges the

1 importance of this decision and that's why it will file an
2 appeal upon the ultimate disposition of the motion to alter or
3 amend. We had hoped that the Court could find a way to
4 consider how the rights of the nondebtor counterparty can be
5 protected but, if not, we'll abide the Court's decision.

6 What is troublesome about the commentary there is
7 that it seems to suggest that a party does not have the right
8 to pursue its legal rights and then, if it loses, to seek an
9 appeal. It's almost like there's a sense of a taint that in
10 some way Metavante has acted inappropriately by doing what
11 derivatives counterparties have done forever with respect to an
12 event of default. It is not -- it is a blinding glimpse of the
13 obvious that the nondefaulting counterparty has the right to
14 suspend performance. The unique circumstances of this case
15 raise the specter of what happens in the context of a Chapter
16 11 filing. And while I appreciate -- I really appreciate --
17 the debtors' desire to conjoin and stand behind the ipso facto
18 clause protections, the essence of Metavante's position is that
19 it was not LBSF's filing that gave rise to the right to suspend
20 performance but LBHI's filing.

21 So, yes, we appreciate the desire of the debtor to
22 harvest these accounts receivable, if you want to view it in
23 those terms. It's the same reason why they sought permission
24 from your Court to assume and assign the interest rate swap
25 agreements to third parties and in that way to harvest what

1 might be the mark to market insight of that contract with
2 respect to an assumption process. But it is decidedly not fair
3 to say that Metavante, pursuing its own rights, has in some way
4 impeded the administration of the estate. How other
5 counterparties view Metavante's decision to appeal and what
6 likely outcome of that decision would be, we leave that to
7 their good judgment.

8 You have before you Metavante and LBSF. There's a
9 respectful disagreement about the merits. We were seeking the
10 Court's clarification and, hopefully, the Court's willingness
11 to embrace an escrow arrangement. But if not, we'll file our
12 notice of appeal and, frankly, give very thoughtful
13 consideration to a supersedeas bond and likely interact with
14 counsel for Lehman because it appears that we have a respectful
15 disagreement about how such a bond might be crafted. I've
16 given you the benefit of our interactions with the bonding
17 companies this week. But it certainly is our hope not to have
18 to file a bond to get a stay pending appeal, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Slack, do you have anything more to
20 say?

21 MR. SLACK: The only comment I wanted to make, Your
22 Honor, is that, just so it's clear, it's Lehman's position
23 today that a stay should not issue and that it's not
24 appropriate and that Metavante should be ordered to perform.
25 So that's our position not that there should be a bond that was

1 discussed in the interest of sort of completeness in case Your
2 Honor reached that issue which, again, we don't think Your
3 Honor should. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Okay. This hearing was scheduled as a
5 consequence of an exchange of correspondence that took place
6 following the filing by Metavante of two motions. The first
7 motion under Rule 59(e) was filed on September 25th. The
8 second motion, the motion for a stay, was filed on October 8th.
9 That led to my receipt of a letter from Mr. Slack dated October
10 13th complaining that the procedures adopted by Metavante were
11 prejudicial to the debtors because of significant delay
12 associated with a hearing that had been scheduled pursuant to
13 the case management procedures for sometime in November.

14 I received a letter from Mr. Arnold dated October
15 16th which also happened to be the date of a pretrial status
16 conference or chambers conference that took place by phone a
17 week ago today.

18 As a consequence of that telephone conference, I
19 scheduled a hearing today to address both the Metavante motion
20 to alter or amend and the Metavante motion for a stay. While
21 there were many areas of disagreement in the correspondence
22 that I had received, one area that seemed to be an area of
23 consensus was that the Court could accelerate the timing for a
24 hearing to consider both of these pending motions. I picked
25 this morning and I appreciate the fact that parties have, in

1 certain instances, traveled to court in order to participate in
2 this hearing.

3 One of the statements that I made during the chambers
4 conference was that I would accept in lieu of further briefing
5 the correspondence from Mr. Slack and from Mr. Arnold. Just
6 from a case management perspective, I would prefer that not to
7 become standard for the Lehman case. I think it is better
8 practice for matters as important as this to be briefed in the
9 ordinary course with pleadings filed and docketed. Both
10 letters are, however, docketed and available for review on the
11 ECF system.

12 I'm going to start with the motion to alter or amend.
13 I note that debtors' counsel takes the position, and the
14 committee joins in this argument, that the motion to alter or
15 amend is really procedurally inappropriate because the matters
16 that are the subject of that motion were not presented during
17 the briefing and argument in connection with the original
18 Metavante motion to compel.

19 Procedurally, debtors filed a motion to compel
20 performance under the applicable interest rate swap agreement
21 between LBSF and Metavante. A hearing was held on July 14th.
22 Following that hearing and some encouragement from the Court
23 that the parties accommodate their different positions by
24 agreement, there was a status conference that took place on
25 September 15th at which time Metavante both by letter and by

1 oral request, sought that that matter be adjourned to a later
2 date in October so the parties would have sufficient time to
3 address a possible settlement of issues arising under the ISDA
4 swap agreement. That request for an adjournment was opposed by
5 the debtors and the Court, at that hearing, read into the
6 record the ruling which has led to not only today's hearing and
7 motion practice but apparently considerable discussion within
8 the community of market participants that deal with ISDA
9 agreements.

10 I agree with the debtors that the issues presented in
11 the motion to alter or amend are, for all practical purposes,
12 inappropriate matters to present in a motion for
13 reconsideration because neither was addressed in papers
14 presented by Metavante in opposition to the motion to compel
15 nor was the issue of adequate assurance or default interest a
16 subject of oral argument.

17 However, I am going to comment briefly on both
18 issues. But by doing so, I do not wish to take away from the
19 fact that these are matters that probably could be disposed of
20 by my simply saying these are inappropriate matters for a
21 decision at this point and the motion is simply denied.

22 On the issue of adequate assurance, I believe that
23 Metavante is in a somewhat unusual fact pattern in part because
24 of the very deep pockets of LBSF and LBHI. The letter sent by
25 Mr. Arnold on October 16th acknowledges, as does comments made

1 this morning during oral argument, that Lehman Brothers is
2 sitting on a huge pile of cash. I don't know what today's
3 numbers would reveal but it's something in the neighborhood of
4 more than fifteen billion dollars. That is enviable liquidity.
5 It is difficult for a counterparty dealing with a party such as
6 Lehman Brothers and its affiliates to complain about meaningful
7 economic risk associated with making a payment into that high a
8 mountain of cash. For that reason, regardless of whether or
9 not adequate assurance may be a sensible concept in dealing
10 with a shaky counterparty, I see absolutely no factual basis
11 for the assertion that adequate assurance is an appropriate
12 remedy to protect a nondefaulting counterparty dealing with
13 Lehman Brothers.

14 As to the subject of default interest, I believe that
15 that is a matter which, in the ordinary course of swap
16 terminations, is dealt with without court intervention. And I
17 see absolutely no reason for the bankruptcy court to become
18 involved, at least at this point, in a dispute relating to the
19 appropriate calculation of default interest. I do not believe
20 that it represents a matter that requires judicial attention
21 prior to making a payment. In this respect, the Metavante
22 situation is no different from situations that have arisen in
23 this bankruptcy case between Lehman Brothers and other
24 counterparties involving transactions of like type. There are
25 a set of procedures judicially approved relating to alternative

1 dispute resolution in respect of derivative transactions. In
2 certain instances, as I understand it, Lehman Brothers may be
3 asserting that certain counterparties in other transactions may
4 still owe money based upon Lehman's calculation of amounts
5 payable on termination. I do not know because it is not before
6 me the degree to which these ongoing disputes relate to the
7 calculation of default interest or other matters that might be
8 part of a termination calculation.

9 But the situation involving Metavante is no different
10 from that of any other swap counterparty. If there is a
11 dispute relating to the amount payable as between Lehman
12 Brothers and any counterparty, presumably that dispute will be
13 resolved by agreement of the parties, by alternative dispute
14 resolution to the extent applicable or, if it gets that far, by
15 the Court in an appropriate evidentiary hearing. At this
16 juncture, I see absolutely no need to alter or amend the order
17 compelling Metavante to perform this particular executory
18 contract as it relates to the demand made by Lehman Brothers
19 for the payment of default interest which demand, at least
20 superficially, is predicated upon a set of procedures that are
21 generally applicable in swap transactions.

22 For these reasons, I deny the motion to alter or
23 amend.

24 Turning to the separate motion filed on October 8th
25 for a stay, I note that the parties have spent considerable

1 time dealing with how to bond, most appropriately, a stay
2 pending appeal assuming the Court were to issue such a stay.
3 That whole subject matter becomes irrelevant because I see
4 absolutely no basis for staying any appeal that might be filed
5 by Metavante. I note that procedurally no appeal has yet been
6 filed although both Metavante and the debtors assume that such
7 an appeal will be filed promptly after the disposition of the
8 motion to alter or amend so I assume that will happen in the
9 next several days.

10 Metavante's motion appropriately identifies the
11 standards generally applicable to a bankruptcy court's
12 consideration of a motion for a stay pending appeal. And I
13 address these factors notwithstanding the fact that there is no
14 appeal currently pending. The four factors are the likelihood
15 of success on the merits; whether the moving party will suffer
16 irreparable injury; whether other parties will suffer
17 substantial harm; and whether there will be harm to the public
18 interest.

19 Metavante assumes for purposes of its motion that the
20 last factor in this quartet, that involving harm to the public
21 interest, is not applicable. Both the creditors' committee and
22 the debtors assert they should prevail on all four.
23 Ordinarily, the factor that most warrants consideration in
24 deciding whether to issue a stay is whether the party seeking
25 the stay will suffer irreparable injury. In this instance, I

1 find absolutely no support for the proposition that Metavante,
2 which has been compelled to perform under the interest rate
3 swap agreement, will suffer any harm whatsoever if it complies
4 with the order and makes the payments required under the swap
5 agreement.

6 The fact pattern here is somewhat unusual. But what
7 it also demonstrates is a nondefaulting counterparty to a swap
8 agreement that has chosen its poison. Metavante had the
9 ability, upon the occurrence of the LBHI bankruptcy and upon
10 the occurrence of the LBSF bankruptcy, with a short period of
11 time thereafter, to exercise under the safe harbor termination
12 rights but elected not to do so. For reasons expressed in the
13 Court's bench ruling on September 15, Metavante, quite self
14 consciously, chose to play the market presumably believing that
15 it had a colorable legal basis to do so. In having done that,
16 in effect, it has increased its own exposure by making what
17 seems to be in retrospect an inopportune bet as to the future
18 direction of the interest rate markets. This is, when looked
19 at in a nonbankruptcy setting, not a garden variety agreement
20 but a garden variety swap agreement. In that sense, in paying
21 Lehman amounts that come due periodically, the so-called reset
22 payments, Metavante is doing precisely what it agreed to do and
23 by not having terminated the agreement is doing exactly what it
24 should have known it was obligated to do.

25 Under the circumstances and recognizing that

1 Metavante is, particularly since its recent merger transaction
2 with another business, a very, very large financial enterprise
3 in its own right. It can well afford to make these payments.
4 And to the extent it may succeed in any appeal that it chooses
5 to file tot he district court or beyond in obtaining an
6 overturning of the Court's order of September 17th that was
7 entered in respect of the September 15th bench ruling, it will
8 have a highly liquid counterparty against which it can make a
9 claim to recover monies paid.

10 Irreparable injury in the present setting is almost a
11 laughable concept. This is pure and simply an ordinary course
12 transaction between apparently liquid counterparties.

13 As to the other issues in the quartet of factors, I
14 make no comment as to Metavante's likely success on the merits
15 of an appeal other than to say that having given this matter
16 some thought, I rather expect that a district court judge
17 considering this matter will agree with me. Nonetheless, I
18 recognize that this is a matter as to which there is little
19 controlling precedent and about the only comparable authority
20 that I am aware of is from Australia. Under the circumstance,
21 a district court reviewing a matter de novo conceivably could
22 come out with a different result. I'm not in a business of
23 predicting outcomes, only making decisions of matters that are
24 presented before me. Recognizing, however, the issues that are
25 involved, I am unable to say that there is any likelihood of

1 success on the merits. There is, I suspect, only a mere
2 possibility.

3 As to the harm to be suffered by the Lehman Brothers
4 entities and perhaps also by the public, I believe that there
5 is the potential for significant harm if contracts such as the
6 one before me now are not enforceable by LBSF and other Lehman
7 entities in accordance with their terms. The creditors'
8 committee has spoken to the collateral damage associated with
9 Metavante's refusal to pay both its refusal to pay leading up
10 to the September 17 order compelling performance and its post
11 hac refusal to pay. Metavante has the rights that it has to
12 pursue both to seek appropriate clarifications in this court
13 and to pursue appellate rights in the district court and
14 beyond, if appropriate. But that doesn't mean that it can do
15 so and change the nature of the contract that it has with the
16 debtors and it has chosen not to terminate.

17 Because this is, in effect, a test case and an
18 example of other comparable transactions between Lehman
19 Brothers and counterparties, there is a great deal of public
20 interest in the outcome of this dispute. The mere fact that
21 ISDA has written publicly on this subject further indicates
22 that this is a matter as to which there is public interest.

23 Accordingly, I believe that there has been a failure
24 on the part of Metavante to show cause in each of the four
25 categories that courts typically consider in deciding whether

1 to grant a stay. For the reasons stated, the motion for a stay
2 is denied.

3 Is there anything more?

4 MR. ARNOLD: No, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. We're adjourned.

6 (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at 11:22 a.m.)
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I N D E X

R U L I N G S

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Lisa Bar-Leib, certify that the foregoing transcript is a
true and accurate record of the proceedings.

LISA BAR-LEIB
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Date: October 26, 2009